

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An optical element comprises: a diffractive structure having a plurality of diffracting ring-shaped zones arranged around an optical axis on at least one optical surface; and an optical path difference giving structure arranged on an optical surface of at least one of the plurality of diffracting ring-shaped zones, for giving a prescribed optical path difference to a prescribed light beam passing through the diffracting ring-shaped zone, wherein the optical surface of the diffractive structure is a structure having a diffracting function for setting L-th ($L \neq 0$) order diffracted light of the light beam having the first wavelength λ_1 to a maximum diffraction efficiency and for setting M-th ($M \neq 0$) order diffracted light of the light beam having the second wavelength λ_2 to a maximum diffraction efficiency in case of an assumption of no existence of the optical path difference giving structure.